

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 NSCE-00 /011 R

66603

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APPROVED BY: S/S-O: PHILIP JOHNSON

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P 150310Z FEB 75 ZFF4

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 034928

EXDIS

FOLL REPEAT STATE 34928 ACTION AQABA 14 FEB 75

QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 034928

EXDIS TOSEC 296

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:US,UR,PFOR

SUBJECT:BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH

FONMIN GROMYKO:ISSUES/TALKING POINTS:COMPLAINTS

WHICH SOVIETS COULD BRING UP AT GENEVA

FOR: HARTMAN AND SONNENFELDT

(DURING THE PAST WEEK SOVIET OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW AND

WASHINGTON HAVE REGISTERED COMPLAINTS ABOUT THREE MINOR

BILATERAL ISSUES. THERE IS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THEY

WILL COME UP IN GENEVA BUT BACKGROUND IS PROVIDED IN

CASE THEY DO.)

1. DISTRIBUTION OF USIA MAGAZINE. SOVIET COMPLAINT:

THAT THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW HAS DISTRIBUTED COPIES

OF THE USIA ENGLISH LANGUAGE MAGAZINE DIALOGUE CONTAIN-

ING MATERIAL ON SOLZHENITSYN "HOSTILE TO THE SOVIET

UNION."

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(A) TALKING POINT: THE "MATERIAL ON SOLZHENITSYN" WAS A REVIEW OF HIS BOOK BY AN AMERICAN AUTHOR. THE MAGAZINE DIALOGUE IS DISTRIBUTED ONLY IN A FEW COPIES (250) LARGELY TO OTHER EMBASSIES AND FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WHO ASK FOR IT. THE SOVIET EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON DISTRIBUTES FAR MORE MATERIAL THAN DOES THE US EMBASSY IN MOSCOW YET US AUTHORITIES DO NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT IT.

(B) BACKGROUND: USIA HAD PLANNED TO START DISTRIBUTING A SMALL RUSSIAN EDITION OF DIALOGUE MAGAZINE STRIPPED OF ALL POTENTIALLY CONTROVERSIAL ARTICLES IN MARCH. THE SOVIET PROTEST MAY HAVE BEEN MADE WITH KNOWLEDGE OF THIS PLAN. USIA HAS HELD UP THE RUSSIAN EDITION UNTIL A MORE FAVORABLE MOMENT.

2. RADIO LIBERTY. SOVIET COMPLAINT: A FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMPLAINED "UNOFFICIALLY" THAT RADIO LIBERTY IS BROADCASTING ANTI-SOVIET MATERIAL, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING SOVIET NATIONALITY PROBLEMS.

(A) TALKING POINT: (1) RADIO LIBERTY IS A PRIVATE RADIO CORPORATION FUNDED BY THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ESTABLISHED BY THE CONGRESS. THE BOARD IS AN INDEPENDENT AGENCY AND RADIO LIBERTY IS NOT AN OFFICIAL US RADIO STATION. (2) RADIO LIBERTY'S POSITION IS PERHAPS ANALOGOUS TO THAT OF RADIO PEACE AND PROGRESS, A SOVIET STATION WHICH FREQUENTLY TAKES

POSITIONS WHICH WE HAVE BEEN TOLD BY SOVIET OFFICIALS DO NOT REPRESENT THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT.

(B) BACKGROUND: THIS IS THE FIRST QUASI-OFFICIAL SOVIET COMPLAINT ABOUT RADIO LIBERTY IN SOME TIME. IT MAY HAVE BEEN DONE TO EXPLORE THE LEVERAGE PROVIDED BY THE FACT THAT THE BOARD FOR INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING IS FORMALLY CHARGED BY THE CONGRESS WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INSURING THAT RADIO LIBERTY AND RADIO FREE EUROPE OPERATE "IN A MANNER NOT INCONSISTENT WITH BROAD FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES" OF USG.

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TENT WITH BROAD FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVES" OF USG.

3. JACK ANDERSON ATTACK ON MALIK. SOVIET COMPLAINT: THE USG SHOULD STOP US PRESS ATTACKS ON SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES SUCH AS ANDERSON COLUMN ON FEBRUARY 11 ALLEGING ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES BY SOVIET PERM REP AT UN MALIK.

(A) TALKING POINT: ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND SOVIET
CONCERN, A STUDY OF THE US PRESS AND ANDERSON'S COLUMNS
IN PARTICULAR SHOULD PROVIDE CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT
USG DOES NOT AND CANNOT CONTROL PRESS. INGERSOLL

UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PFOR
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE034928
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: PJOHNSON
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: RR
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: SECSTATE WASHDC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750237/aaaabhtc.tel
Line Count: 121
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM
TAGS: US, UR
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006